

JSP Elective Courses (Fall 2017)

(1) Historical Origins of Modern Japan (4 credits)

BURTSCHER Michael

13:10-14:40 & 14:50-16:20 (Monday)

This class will consider Japan's emergence as a modern state with a focus on the transition from the Tokugawa to the Meiji period. In studying societal and political change predominantly in the nineteenth century (albeit with a view to twentieth-century developments), it will pay particular attention to conceptual shifts in the political lexicon of the modern Japanese language. It will ask, for example, how terms such as 'nation,' 'society' and 'rights' were translated into Japanese and entered common usage.

(2) Introduction to Community in Japan (4 credits)

YUNOUE Chiharu

13:10-14:40 & 14:50-16:20 (Tuesday)

What does community/neighborhood mean in Japan? This course will introduce a wide variety of topics on community building efforts and community-based problem solving in Japan. A large number of neighborhoods in Japan have experienced various issues, such as urbanization, aging, depopulation, natural disasters, and so on. In this course, we will explore various strategies employed for overcoming these challenges, and consider what makes neighborhoods vibrant, inclusive, and healthy. The topics also include activities of organizations and community-based elder care in Japan. The course uses a seminar format. Students are expected to participate in class discussions on articles and a variety of visual materials, such as videos and photos, seen in class. No prerequisite.

(3) The Soft Power of Cool Japan (4 credits)

CLOSE Natalie

13:10-14:40 & 14:50-16:20 (Wednesday)

In 2010 the Japanese government formally implemented a strategy called Cool Japan, which aims at increasing Japan's influence in the world through a process known as soft power. We will look into the various forms of Cool Japan including anime, manga, gaming, and fashion, as well as some of the less well-known areas such as sport and the arts, from a historical perspective. In addition, we will look at the contemporary status of popular culture both in

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Japan and globally, critically examine the success of the Cool Japan program, and discuss what the future may hold. Overall, this course will raise students' critical awareness of a variety of cultural and social issues related to modern Japan in the 21st century. By the end of this course students will have a grasp of the concept of soft power and how the popular culture of Japan is affecting its position in the world. Students will look at the historical position of Japanese popular culture and how this has developed in recent years. Students will also be able to critically assess the success of the 'Cool Japan' program in light of recent developments.

(4) Japanese Modern Design History 1868-1945 (4 credits)

KAKUYAMA Tomoko

13:10-14:40 & 14:50-16:20 (Thursday)

Focusing on Japan's modern design history after 1868, this course investigates the formation of Japanese people's life-world. There are various factors and ideologies that affect design, such as economy, nationalism, mass culture etc. Not only its stylistic character and functional matters, we will look into "design" as a social activity from historical perspective, and discuss the modernization and westernization process of Japan. The main subjects are handicrafts, industrial products, graphic works, and the architecture of 1868-1945. Contemporary topics will be also referred in the course.

(5) Buddhist Traditions (4 credits)

DROTT Edward

13:10-14:40 & 14:50-16:20 (Friday)

This course will provide students with a thorough introduction to the breadth and depth of the Buddhist tradition, tracing its complex pattern of dissemination throughout Asia. The course will follow Buddhism's growth chronologically, giving a basic outline of pre-Buddhist South Asian religion, the Buddha's biography, basic Buddhist philosophy, the development of the *tripitaka* early practices, the rise of Theravāda, Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna, the development of new sects and movements in Central and East Asia, and "modernist" attempts to rework the tradition from the nineteenth century forward.

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Course credits

Total class time (in class)	Study time (outside class)	Credits (Total)
1 class (2hrs)/week x 15 weeks	4hrs/week x 15 weeks	6hrs/week x 15 weeks / 45hrs = 2 credits
2 classes (4hrs)/week x 15 weeks	8hrs/week x 15 weeks	12hrs/week x 15 weeks / 45hrs = 4 credits

***Note (1):** Actual class periods last 90 minutes, but under TIU's credit system, each period corresponds to 2 hours.

***Note (2):** JSP students usually register between 16 and 20 credits (Intensive Japanese courses are 8 credits).

***Note (3):** The transfer of credits is at the discretion of your home institution. Please contact your university's Academic Registrar's Office to confirm if the courses you wish to take are eligible for credit transfer. As a general reference, 1 TIU credit = 1 USA credit = 2 ECTS credits = 4 UK credits. Different credit systems and/or conversion ratios might apply.